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A CHARMING MAIDEN.

When I am racked with darting pains, When weary and weary is my brain, And anguish drives me to my bed, Then comes a maiden fair to me, With softest words and gentle tone, And soothes me with her sweet refrain, And soothes me with her sweet refrain, And soothes me with her sweet refrain.

TWO POSTAL CARDS.

The Leading Part They Played in a Romance.

Friends of the two girls often thought it was a great pity that Mrs. Arbutnot and her husband had been appointed sole guardians of Jasper Nevins' niece, with full care of her money as well as of the girls themselves; for Mr. Arbutnot, though a good, well-meaning man, was as slow in the acute wife's hands, and all who knew her knew that money was the one thing she worshipped. In her way she liked these girls, whose mother had been her favorite sister, and she gave them a happy home—happy, that is, until the over-troublesome questions about money began to arise.

Lillias Nevins was but little more than a year older than her sister Minnie, the two were united as twins could have been; rather too much united on one point for the comfort of their Aunt Hattie, as they called Mrs. Arbutnot, and that was their opinion of Frank Carroll and his money.

"I do declare Lillias," said Minnie one night after they had retired to their room for the night, "I can't comprehend why Aunt Hattie so dotes on Mr. Mariscal; he is as slow and stupid as a box turtle, and I don't see why she should care for him; he is not particularly polite to Auntie—why does she like him so much?"

"It is clear enough to me," replied Lillias, "you know Aunt Hattie was really very poor when she was young, and she dreads poverty for us; she honestly thinks she is acting for my good in giving the cold shoulder to Frank Carroll because he is a poor young book-keeper, and she dotes on him because of his money and fine estate in Mexico; at first I really did believe that his reported fortune and position were all humbug; but now that Auntie's inquiries have proved him to be quite so un-derly to him as I was at first."

"The worst of the affair is that I fear that Mr. Mariscal intends to propose right off. I judge so from a word or two he said to Uncle tonight, just before he left. I heard Uncle say: 'If my wife were here she could answer you better than I; I will tell her about it when she returns from the party she has gone to, and she will write you to-morrow.' To what but a proposal could he have referred?"

"If you marry against Auntie's wishes remember you forfeit all your share of the money, and Frank is not rich," answered Minnie, warningly.

"Oh, dear, so I do, I am in a fix! Come, let's go to bed and try to dream of some way of softening Auntie's heart," said Lillias, wearily, commencing to undress. "Why, where's my watch? I do believe I left it on the library table, and I am in my bare feet—Minnie do you mind going down for it?"

"Not she! Neither of the girls was one bit timid, so Minnie, who had not begun to undress, ran to the library for the watch. She was gone some minutes, and Lillias was just beginning to undress, when she returned, apologizing for her delay, saying that the evening paper had caught her eye, and she paused long enough to read over the death and marriage notices as any girl would.

The next morning Mrs. Arbutnot said calmly, as if she was saying nothing at all:

"I will want you to go into the city with me by-and-by, Lillias, to select some new bonnets and dresses; we may as well begin to prepare for your wedding."

letter, the wedding must go on without me—or else you, Lillias, will be a span-der."

"Lillias is so impulsive, you know, Aunt Hattie, that I do wish you would write that down so she will not forget it," suggested Minnie, looking at the paper to Mrs. Arbutnot, and then withdrawing it, adding: "Suppose I write it and let you sign it, as you say your eyes trouble you to-day?"

"Do so, my dear; my eyes are very bad to-day, but for that I would postpone my journey until later in the season."

So Minnie wrote: "I intend to adhere strictly and literally to the terms in which I yesterday wrote to Mr. Mariscal and Frank Carroll; if they are not satisfied with what I wrote I can't help it. I will abide by that decision." And to this Mrs. Arbutnot appended her name and the date. Somewhat to Mrs. Arbutnot's surprise, none of the family saw any thing of Mr. Mariscal all that day; and she had to start that night for New York, whence, she was to sail for Paris, without seeing him again. Early the next morning there came to the house, not Mr. Mariscal, but Frank Carroll, who, to Lillias' surprise, was not greeted as if he were her accepted lover. As soon as she could do so—that is, as soon as she could make up her mind to do so—she withdrew from her enfoldings arms and exclaimed: "Why Frank! How outrageous you are, to venture here in such an assured manner, after what Aunt Hattie wrote to you!"

"Courageous?" he repeated. "I don't understand you; it is because I received her card that I am here now. I must own that I was a little surprised when I read it, though."

"What could she have said to you?" asked Lillias in amazement still.

"Here it is—read it for yourself. I asked her to write me a letter, and she gave it to me this morning. I was away on business, or I'd have been here last evening," he answered, handing a postal card to Lillias.

"So sorry that I can not see you to-night, I write in haste and confusion to say that I am most sincerely glad that you should marry Lillias, and I trust that she will appreciate the compliment you have paid her—from her past treatment of you I am sure she will. At any rate, it is my desire that she marry you and no one else, on pain of my anger."

To this was appended her name and the date of the preceding day.

Lillias was mystified, Frank jubilant, Mr. Arbutnot mildly puzzled but silent. When Mr. Arbutnot told Frank that his wife had said something about having Lillias married within a month, even though she went away, and when Lillias and Minnie agreed with him, he was only too glad to add in carrying out her expressed wish, so the wedding dress was made up in a hurry, and it was exactly a month after the date of her card to Frank, Mrs. Arbutnot's older ward was married to her true love.

An hour or so after the wedding, Minnie said calmly to Lillias:

"Did you ever hear any more of Mr. Mariscal's desire to marry you?"

"Bless me, not! I had entirely forgotten the man! Why, sure enough, Auntie said she had accepted his offer, and—what are you laughing at, Minnie?" said Lillias.

GOVERNMENT DOCKS.

The Insignificant Capacity of the United States Yards for Dockage.

In the course of the rehabilitation of the United States navy, docks and navy yards require very serious consideration, for after ships and guns, there are no requirements of more importance for naval purposes. The capacity of the Government yards for dockage is very insignificant, owing to the lack of the necessary equipment, and this, above all others, is the part of the integrity of which we need to be most assured. The few docks that we have are generally appropriated by vessels under repair, and the cruising ship is debarred the use of this means of guarding her safety and providing for her speed. A very slight accident might destroy the copper on the bottom of a wooden ship, which may result in serious consequences if she be exposed to the influence of the tides, and the neglect to clean the bottom when loaded with grass or barnacles might so impair speed as to make the difference between capture and failure in a chase.

Docking for such purposes as inspecting and cleaning the bottom is the exception in our service, as the demands of repairs are considered paramount. A ship in which the repairs approach or lie below the water line must be placed in a dock, and months being often required to complete the work, the dock is closed to all other purposes, and our ships are frequently sent from one navy yard to another to take advantage of a dock that may be vacant.

The embarrassments that have attended this course in the past, and which have consisted of copper-shedded wooden ships, will be increased by the introduction of iron and steel hulls, which demand much more care and more frequent removals of such hindrances to speed as will attach themselves to their bottom.

The Government has at present but three stone dry-docks and one floating-dock. The latter is in use at Portsmouth, New Hampshire; the stone docks are at the navy yards in Boston, New York and Norfolk.

A stone dock is in process of construction at Mare Island, California; this is of dimensions capable of receiving ships of the first class. Its length is 200 feet, its breadth 70 feet, and its water over the sill 25 feet, and it will admit a ship of 400 feet in length. When completed it will supply a great want on the Pacific coast.

It requires no argument to show that the Government needs a great increase in its facilities for dockage; the necessity of a plentiful supply of docks is recognized by all powers, and we can not pretend to be blind to our own deficiency. This is a want that must be provided for, but it is well to study all points that bear on the subject, and to mature some plan of operations before we embark in work which involves great expense, and the success of which must depend on the thoroughness with which the work is done.

—Rear-Admiral R. S. Shapcott, in Harper's Magazine.

TIMBER PRESERVATION.

A Simple and Inexpensive Way of Preventing the Growth of Destructive Fungi.

The cheapest operation to protect our woods, and quite sufficient for many purposes, is to season or thoroughly dry the timber, reducing the contained moisture from eight to twelve per cent. of the weight of the wood; and when in this condition, with a circulation of air around it, to prevent the collection and absorption of moisture, the wood will last indefinitely as the fungi can not grow in such surroundings. Every one is aware of the fact that the soundness of timber in the upper parts of buildings, while in lower parts near the foundations it is often decayed on account of moisture.

Many situations, however, where timber must be used, the conditions of growth of the fungi are present, and it will decay; some species can be used which resist the attacks of the fungi for a long period, but the final result is decay unless the wood is treated in some process preventing the growth of the fungi, which must be capable of doing either one of two things. 1. It must keep the fibers dry, preventing the absorption of moisture. 2. If the wood must be a damp place and kept moist, some antiseptic must be used to prevent the growth of any of the various kinds of destructive fungi. Timber entirely submerged does not come under these considerations. To use the first process, a great quantity of more than a thin coat of paint or tar on seasoned wood when exposed to continued moisture. It must be some substance which penetrates the tissues of the wood sufficiently far, in case the exterior surface is broken, to prevent the absorption of moisture. Wood impregnated with the heavy tar or the lighter oil is protected more from the fact of prevention of access of dampness to the fibers than by the contained antiseptics, unless in the exception of a great percentage of crocodites. Wood impregnated with the heavy tar or the lighter oil is protected more from the fact of prevention of access of dampness to the fibers than by the contained antiseptics, unless in the exception of a great percentage of crocodites.

Popular Science Monthly.

Bostonese Inquisitiveness.

Mr. D—, a Western man, came East, and found at his hotel a landlady who was much interested in his personal history. He was unable to answer all her questions satisfactorily.

—Youth's Companion.

NEW ILLUMINANT.

The Wonderful Light-Giving Powers of the Metal Magnesium.

"Do you know," said a chemist to a reporter, "that the metal magnesium is being introduced into the United States as an illuminant as a substitute for all other lights?" The listener disclaimed any knowledge on the subject.

"Its successful introduction," continued the speaker, "will depend altogether upon the cost of its production, nothing but its high cost preventing its practical use. A few years ago it was sold at forty dollars a pound. Now, by a new process, German, it can be sold at eight dollars a pound, and there is little doubt that before long it will be produced even more cheaply."

Here the chemist took out a shining piece of what looked like a strip of silver, which he ignited. As it burned it produced a powerful brilliant light, more intense even than electricity.

"Its use will not be attended with danger like electricity, and it can be arranged so that even the remote country church or dancing hall can have it, as well as the dwellers in the great cities. It can be placed in a lamp, arranged with clock-work movements to feed a ribbon of the metal regularly. It is a white vapor, outside of magnesium, given off by the metal in burning, which will require a smoke-bell when burned in doors."

The chemist ignited another piece of the watch-spring, which glowed like the sun itself.

"It is said," he continued, "that a magnesium lamp of one thousand candle power throws enough light to distinguish a vessel nine miles distant. A wire the size of this equals the light of seventy-five electric candles. It will make the cost of magnesium light little more than gas, while no expensive works or street mains are required for its use, making its introduction for lighting towns and villages a very simple matter. It is said that within five years the magnesium light will be as familiar a sight in many places in Indiana as the electric light is to-day in Indianapolis."—Indianapolis Journal.

COST OF MILK.

Interesting Experiences With Various Foods and With Combinations of Foods.

Those who keep but one or two cows in the cities, villages, and at suburban homes are as much interested in the cost of the production of milk as the farmer or dairyman who feeds many. A series of careful experiments have been made at the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station to determine the cost of making milk from various foods. These were bran, shorts, corn-meal, the refuse from glucose factories, hay, corn fodder and corn ensilage.

A synopsis of the published results shows that in feeding bran or shorts, cornmeal and gluten-meal, three and a quarter pounds weight of each were used. Two of the foods were also combined, making six and a half pounds to feed each cow daily, and at times a combination of three was used, making nine and three-quarters pounds fed daily to each cow. The remaining food was either hay, dry-corn fodder or corn ensilage. The highest amount of hay eaten by any cow in one year was twenty pounds, and of ensilage fifty-five pounds. The apparent bulk of the ensilage over the hay, as shown by weight, may be understood when it is remembered that the hay is dry while ensilage is juicy. The highest cost of milk per quart was from a liberal hay and grain feed, being two and three-tenths cents per quart. The milk produced at the lowest cost was from a moderate feeding of ensilage and corn-meal, and his is a work that is also stated that so far as the quality of the milk was concerned, under the various conditions of feed given, no serious alteration in the composition was noticed.

HOPE FOR THE BEST.

Why People Should Look at the Bright and Hopeful Side of Life.

There was never a night so dark that some would not speak of the dawn, and never a day so bright that some would not think of the midnight. It is well that the enthusiast be balanced by the conservative, perhaps, on the principle that a little shade improves the tone of almost any picture. It is, however, a thankless mission that the grumbler enacts, and his is a work that is also stated that so far as the quality of the milk was concerned, under the various conditions of feed given, no serious alteration in the composition was noticed.

—Chicago Times.

—On the northwest corner of Georgia lies the county of Dade. This is known to the neighboring regions as the free State of Dade, owing, not only to the wild and mountainous character of the region whose few and scattered inhabitants are in keeping with their surroundings, but because during the war of the rebellion they openly seceded from the State of Georgia and the Confederacy and managed to secure a freedom which, says a correspondent of the Washington Star, they virtually maintain to-day.

PITH AND POINT.

A New York man asserts that his dog can count.

"It is said Bernhardt has two ambitions. One is to get fat, the other to write good poetry. She can never fail in either," writes a poet. It is too thin—Chicago Tribune.

"Swift said the reason a certain university was a learned place was that most persons took some learning there, and few brought any away with them, so it accumulated."—N. Y. Witness.

"The editor of our esteemed contemporary across the river," said a sarcastic village journalist, "is very fresh, but the malady doesn't extend to his news columns."—Somerville Journal.

"No, it is not hard to write funny paragraphs; all you have to do is to procure a pen, some paper and ink, and then sit down and write them as they occur to you. It is not the writing, but the occurring, that is hard."—New Haven News.

"A little girl, visiting a neighbor with her mother, was gazing curiously at the hostess' new bonnet, when the owner queried: 'Do you like it, Laura?' The innocent replied: 'Why, mother said it was a perfect fright; but it doesn't scare me!'"—Examiner.

"As between a dog and a dude for a summer resort spot," said a young lady as a young man left her side, "give me the dog." "Why?" asked her companion. "The dog never says anything." "Neither does the dude, does he?" "No; but he makes me talk so much."—Washington Critic.

"Customer (to drug clerk)—What do you charge for arsenic? Drug Clerk (suspiciously)—What do you want it for? Customer—I am a French candy manufacturer. Drug Clerk (suspiciously)—Oh, I beg pardon, sir; I thought perhaps you wanted to take it yourself."—N. Y. Sun.

"Algeron—Do you know I don't believe there is anything in the theory that fish is great brain food? Augustus—Why, I always supposed that was a fact. Have you eaten much fish? Algeron—Oh, yes, an awful lot. Augustus—Well then, I guess you're right, old chap."—The Hambley.

"Yes," said a Kentuckian who had been in the Far West, "Indians are powerful folk of whisky. Let 'em once get the taste of whisky and they'll give up everything for it. An old chief out in Western Dakota offered me a new saddle, bridle and blanket and I don't know what else for a pint of whisky I had with me." "And you wouldn't give it to him?" "Not much. That was the last pint I had left. But shows how fond Indians are of whisky."—N. Y. Sun.

CARPET-MAKING.

More Than Four Thousand Looms Running in the United States.

Recent investigations show that there are in the United States 4,211 looms devoted mainly to the weaving of extra and medium super carpets. Of these looms 2,189 are in Philadelphia, the remainder being scattered from Auburn, N. Y., to the Eastern companies. In States they are as follows: Pennsylvania, 2,189; New York, 301; Massachusetts, 375; Connecticut, 347. The average yield of an ingrain power-loom is thirty yards per diem, and the possible yield of the entire country in extra super is 37,899,000 yards per annum. The value of the same is, at sixty cents per yard, \$22,739,400. But all ingrain power looms are not run on "extra" and allowances will be made accordingly. The growth of the Brussels industry is interesting. In 1836 Brussels carpets were being woven in a few collars in Philadelphia by hand. About that time, also, the Auburn (N. Y.) State prison, under Mr. Barber, was turning out bulky Brussels, and the old factory at Astoria, which E. S. Higgins bought in 1845, was one of the first to make Brussels. The Brussels manufacture since that time has grown to be a familiar sight. The Bigelow loom was perfected, is familiar. Since the war the great companies at Hartford, Lowell and Clinton have assumed large proportions, and turn out each year a magnificent product in Brussels, and other coverings growing up about them. In the decade past Philadelphia has loomed and contains to-day a large proportion of the Brussels machinery of the country. There are in the United States, in position or about to be placed, 1,197 Brussels looms. The number in each State is as follows: Pennsylvania, 483; New York, 106; Connecticut, 103; Massachusetts, 492; New Jersey, 10. The average yield of a Brussels loom is fifty yards a day, and all the Brussels looms in the country running on regular time would yield 17,955,000 yards in one year, Sundays and holidays excluded. Averaging stouts and five-frame goods at \$1 per yard, the value of our total Brussels product would be \$17,955,000. The largest tapestry-Brussels concern in the United States is that of the Alexander Smith & Sons Company at Yonkers, N. Y. They have 250 looms on tapestries, and can turn out probably 455,000 yards per month. —Philadelphia Carpet Trade.

TICKER SUBSIDED.

Why a Newly-Married Grain Speculator Smiled a Sickly Smile.

One of the operators on the Chicago Board of Trade was married a short time ago, and, of course, the first time he appeared on the Board after his honeymoon he was subjected to many congratulations and much good-natured bantering. One of his friends, after congratulating him suddenly reached over and took a long brown hair from his locks. "I'm married in a married man, Ticker," he exclaimed, holding it up to the light.

"Oh, that's all right," replied Ticker, smiling; "it's my wife's."

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